

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/511,329

Examiner

Minh-Chau T. Pham

Applicant(s)

JENSEN ET AL.

Art Unit

1724

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed on 7/9/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 20-26, 28-36 and 38-46 (renumbered as 1-25 respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

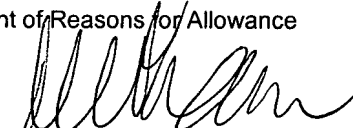
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____


Minh-Chau Pham
Patent Examiner.
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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 20-26, 28-36 and 38-46 allowed.

The closest relevant arts are Harris et al (5,643,451) and Hammond et al (4,220,459).

Harris et al teach a filter bag for a filter device (30) comprising a tubular, flexible, air-penetrable filter body (34) provided with a suspension arrangement with a rigid ring element (30) arranged at least partially at an interior part (44) of the filter body (34) and being annularly secured to the unfolded end of the filter body (34), and the ring element (30) having an outwardly protruding member (32) for suspending the filter bag (34) at discrete points (see details of Fig. 2, col. 2, lines 6-26). Harris et al further teach the ring element (30) and the filter body (34) are bonded together via ultrasonic welding (col. 1, lines 29-41, col. 2, lines 27-60).

Hammond et al teach a filter bag for a filter device comprising a tubular, flexible, air-penetrable filter body (34) provided with a suspension arrangement with a rigid ring element (74) arranged at least partially at an interior part (76) of the filter body (34) and being annularly secured to the unfolded end of the filter body (34), and the ring element (74) having an outwardly protruding member (78, col. 3, line 58 through col. 4, line 6) for suspending the filter bag (34) at discrete points (see details of Fig. 2). Hammond et al further teach the ring element (74) and the filter body (34) are sewn (64) together (col. 3, lines 21-24), and the ring element (74) is made of metal or plastics materials (col. 3, lines 24-27).

Claims 20-26, 28-36 and 38-46 of this instant patent application differ from the disclosure of either Harris et al or Hammond et al in that the ring element includes a plurality of outwardly protruding members for suspending the filter bag at discrete points.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Minh-Chau T. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-1163. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon/Tues/Thur/Fri 7:00 am - 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on (571) 272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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Minh-Chau Pham

Patent Examiner

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September 21, 2007

DUANE SMITH
PATENT EXAMINER


9-24-07